

HAGGARD ELECTS SELF IN AS MAYOR

BENSTEAD TO CONTEST ELECTION

Bias Charge Hurlled By Councilmen

Voting for himself, Councilman Bob Haggard took over the job of mayor of Torrance Tuesday night by a 3 to 2 vote. Haggard's election came after both Councilmen Nick Drale and George Powell challenged his fitness for the position. Drale accused Haggard of bias and prejudice.

Powell supported Drale's statement, and continued to prove his point by stating that Haggard himself had asked Powell a year and one-half ago if he would like to be city manager, and that he (Powell) refused.

"Then, in the midst of a rather clean election campaign," Powell continued, "one newspaper starts slinging mud and accuses me of conspiring to get the position of city manager. That shows you how little things can be brought up and used in dirty politics to accomplish a purpose."

Drale first nominated Powell for mayor, as a crowd of 125 watched.

There was no second, as Powell would not second his own nomination, and the nomination failed.

With City Clerk A. H. Bartlett sitting in the presiding officer's chair, Harvey Spelman then nominated Haggard and Willis Blount seconded.

Haggard was elected by his, Spelman's and Blount's votes. Bartlett previously had been sworn into office as city clerk for the seventh time. Margaret Fordice was sworn in for her second term as city treasurer.

J. Hugh Sherkey, Jr., and A. L. Jackson stepped out of office as the vote at the city election of April 11 was canvassed and the returns verified by the old council. Each served one term.

Shoppers Shortcuts

By HAZEL KELLER

New Utility of Luxury and beauty delights aggressive housewives. The National Home Appliance Store in Torrance has received a shipment of the new "Presto" copper bonded, stainless steel cook of four-quart size which supercedes the familiar cast aluminum utility, so popular in America's homes. It's nice to know that ladies of Torrance can purchase these now at 1267 Sartori avenue, the headquarters for latest household appliances.

Good Eggs at Torrance Poultry Market, 1613 Cabrillo, and large ones, too, at a special low price Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Don't miss the luscious salmon steaks and choice fryers and roasters in live or dressed poultry or rabbits. Cheerful, courteous service and free delivery is featured there and goes for happy shopping. You can phone your orders to Torrance 3011.

Hear ye—Hear ye! There's a special on Topper coats in gale new shades and styles at Benson's Shop 1271 Sartori Ave. in Torrance. The fine gaberdine and soft fleeces in taupe rose, neutrals, navy and greens in flare backs or belted styles that you'll adore combine beautifully with your other sportswear. Budget-minded women are using our convenient budget plan which gives three months to pay and no money down for those who wish to use it.

Fresh new frocks of exciting styles and colors at Levas Department Store will add importance to your spring and summer wardrobe. The Doris Dodson, Johnnie Juniors, Bemberg and Cay-Artley sheers are among the array of delicate prints, pastels and plaids being shown. Buttons and bows and lace trim accentuate the beauty of these fine washable rayons and cotton cretion. See them at 1311 Sartori Ave. in Torrance.

Second Visit

TORRANCE—Evangelist Tommy Hicks will open revival services Tuesday, April 23, in the Torrance Foursquare church at 1207 El Prado. He comes to us from one of his most successful meetings in Tulare, Calif., where he has been for the past seven weeks. The Rev. Tommy Hicks has himself been marvelously raised up from death's door, and has a great ministry of praying for the sick.

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Rush Asked On Harbor Freeway

The State Assembly has voted recommendations for full speed construction of the Harbor Freeway as it is now planned. The resolution was introduced by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas (D-San Pedro). He protested against further delay because of disagreements on the freeway's route.

CAMPAIGN BEGINS TO KILL FLIES

TORRANCE—City Park Department spray crew has begun a campaign this week to eradicate flies by spraying all garbage and can receptacles on regular pick-up days in each area. Crew will also spray all fences and garages where flies congregate. The material used, according to Park Foreman C. W. Clemmer is non-toxic, non-irritating, and non-injurious to all plant and animal life. It is only deadly to flies and other insects.

TORRANCE residents are asked to cooperate by allowing their garbage cans and can boxes to be sprayed and not wash it off of fences and garages, as they will benefit by noting a decrease in the disease carrying fly. Dairies and dog kennels, etc., use this material, according to Clemmer, and it is a special preparation to replace DDT.

Sales Days To Celebrate Anniversary

TORRANCE—Special Sales Days will be held this week by Torrance merchants, from Wednesday to Monday, with additional features added Saturday night, including Kleig and spot lights.

Two anniversaries will be celebrated during the event; that of Almond's Department Store, located at 1261 Sartori avenue, and the famous semi-annual sale for Payless Drug Store, located at 1269 Sartori.

Clerk Commends Workers During April Election

TORRANCE—High praise was given this week by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett to precinct workers, new and old, for their wholehearted cooperation during the City Election April 11. Editor's Note—In last week's issue of the Press, a statement was made involving irregularities in Precinct No. 7, where totals varied as much as 16 votes, six of which were redistributed and 10 ballots unaccounted for. This statement was misleading—in that it should have been stated that: In the snap tally taken early in the evening, 16 more votes appeared than in the final count, and that six votes were redistributed, with 10 votes (not ballots) appearing in the snap tally not appearing in the final count.



CHARLES REESE, student at Torrance high school is pictured above delivering the Peninsula Press door to door "Little Merchant" style. This system, which has proved to be one of the most successful methods of distribution by newspapers throughout the United States was inaugurated a little over one month ago in Tor-

rance. Purpose of the distribution is to provide the merchant with complete distribution, and to further serve the community by providing every resident with their local paper. Anyone not receiving the Press every week is asked to contact the Press office at 1185.

NEW HEAD



JESS DEAN—Installed last Saturday night as president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Torrance Chapter. Ceremonies were conducted at the V.F.W. Hall.

New Marble Game Law Proposal Is Rapped

Licensing of marble games in Torrance, even at what may be termed "prohibitive" fees, will not be tolerated by parent-teacher groups and others who want the games banned because of their bad influence on children and their use for gambling purposes.

This was the statement of interests advocating the ordinance to declare the machine illegal ordered drafted by the city council a few weeks ago. It was reported this week that the city attorney's office is drafting an ordinance which would place a \$500 license fee on the machines, and trust their location to the chief of police.

"Nothing doing," said the group wanting the games banned. The city council asked for an ordinance outlawing the games in Torrance, it was pointed out, and providing a license fee of

Telephone Co. Asks Toll-Free Service

TORRANCE—The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company has applied to the California Public Utilities Commission for increases and adjustments in certain telephone rates throughout the state, it was announced today by the company. The following statement was made:

"The number of telephones in service in California has more than kept pace with the last 10 years' 54 per cent population growth, but this accomplishment also produced grave financial problems. "The rate application is based on the going level and trend of costs. In describing the changes proposed to become effective here, A. B. Smith, manager of the company, stated: Under the company's proposal, the rates for Torrance will be increased in accordance with a plan which will bring the rates here in proper relationship with the proposed rates elsewhere in the state. The application also proposes

Telephone Co. Asks Toll-Free Service

that all Torrance telephones be placed on an extended service basis, which would provide all subscribers with the opportunity of toll-free calling to Redondo, Lomita, Compton, San Pedro, and Hawthorne. An adjustment is asked in the coin box rate from 5 cents to 10 cents.

2 Delegates

TORRANCE—Carl Steele, member of the United Steel Workers of America, local 1414, will leave for Atlantic City on May 9 as a delegate to the National Steel Workers International convention. Accompanied by Joe McNally, Jr., the two delegates will travel by plane in order to save the local several days in wages.

Borough Talk Gets Interest

Shoestring strip residents, long-suffering "step-children" of Los Angeles, this week took new note of the plan of Assemblyman Vincent Thomas to set up a borough system of government for Los Angeles.

Mayor Fletcher Bowron said Sunday that the city of Los Angeles has "reached the stage" for a borough system of government.

The city is too big for good government under the present system, he said. Its communities ought to break off and form separate cities or the charter should be changed to provide for more local self-government.

"When any unit or government becomes so large as to be cumbersome and does not adequately reflect the will and the wish of the people, when the people get too far from their government, there should be subdivisions to make possible more citizen participation. I feel Los Angeles has reached that stage," Bowron said in his radio speech Sunday night.

Saucers Fly Over San Pedro Area

TORRANCE—Flying saucers still remain a mystery to southlanders this week, even to Bob Bennett, 3247 Winlock Drive, Torrance, although Bennett recently sighted one over San Pedro.

Bennett, told friends that he had just left the intersection of Western Ave. and Pacific Coast Highway when a flashing object caught his eye. It was 8:25 a. m., and the fast disappearing object was shaped like no other aircraft Bennett had ever seen, and he was familiar with aircraft identification as a crew member aboard an aircraft carrier.

He stated that the bright, shiny aluminum colored object did not look like the photograph of the navy pancake plane that recently received nationwide publicity.

Superior Court Lawsuit Ready

Over the protest of Councilmen Nick Drale and George Powell, a letter from Attorney Albert Isen demanding action by the City Council on a recount of all votes for Councilmen in the City Election of April 11 was filed Tuesday night "as a matter of record."

As a result, an election contest law suit will be filed in Superior court as soon as it can be prepared, Isen said.

Representing Victor E. Benstead, Jr., who was defeated by Willis Blount by but 7 votes, Attorney Isen had asked that the council adopt a proper resolution and take all legal steps to order the recount.

Councilman Bob Haggard moved the letter be filed, and upon a second by Councilman A. L. Jackson, Drale and Powell sought to speak against the motion but were ruled out of order, and the motion prevailed.

According to Benstead and his supporters, there were some 627 votes not cast (single shots) in the election, and there is some question as to whether or not some of the ballots were counted. It was pointed out that the recount may show many errors to change the totals.

No blame has been placed on the election workers at Precinct 7 at 1323 Beech avenue for any of the errors. The election officers conducted themselves properly and any change in the vote totals at that precinct between the "snap tally" and the final result was an honest mistake, it was said.

Isen's letter to the council said: "April 17, 1950
"Honorable City Council
"City Hall
"Torrance, California
"Gentlemen:

"This letter is on behalf of Victor E. Benstead, Jr., candidate for the office of city councilman in the Torrance city election of April 11, 1950, and is specifically in his behalf for a recount of all of the ballots cast for all of the candidates for city council in all of the precincts in the election of that day.

"It appears that Section 8 of the City Charter, when read with Section 8000, Article 3, of the Election Code, gives the city council the right by resolution to order a recount of ballots cast in all precincts when no election contest is pending for a recount of the ballots.

"Since an election contest has not as yet been filed on behalf of Mr. Benstead, this procedure may be eliminated by a recount ordered by your honorable body. We believe that due to the closeness of the vote and the public interest now evident, that the cause of democracy and justice will be served by the Torrance City Council immediately passing a proper resolution and taking all legal steps to order the recount.

"Yours truly,
"Albert Isen."

Central Torrance Out-Voted

Five councilmen represented Torrance as it existed from the time of its incorporation until 1948.

Then, with the aid of some energetic campaigners, a councilman (Nick Drale) was elected from North Torrance, and another (George Powell) from Walters.

That left three councilmen representing Torrance as it was known from 1821 to 1948. Then, with the aid of some more energetic campaigners, another councilman (Willie Blount) was elected from North Torrance, and another (Harvey Spelman) from Seaside Ranchos.

Today, one councilman (Bob Haggard) represents Torrance as it has been known for years. There are those who thought Torrance would never grow; who did not want Torrance to grow. That did not stop Torrance from expanding, but the shortsightedness of the central-minded powers did take from Torrance (as it has been known for years) equal representation.

Today, one councilman, Bob Haggard, represents the central area of Torrance, 48 per cent of the population, 10,560 persons, and four councilmen represent the rest of the area, about 3000 for each councilman. True, they are elected city-wide, and represent "all of the people"—but do they?

There are those "powers that would be" who did not want the Ward system of equal representation when they had a chance to get it, the record shows. These powers seem to be the same ones from central Torrance who sought the election of two more councilmen for outlying areas. Now, who wants the Ward system? It will be hard to get.

Optimists Bring Tag Team Here

TORRANCE—For lovers of tag team wrestling, the Torrance Civic Auditorium, corner Cravens and El Prado, would be a good place to go tonight, because there's a dilly of a match on top.

Billy Varga and Maurice La Chappelle will join forces against Chris Zaharias and Al Wolfman in the team feature, Torrance's first such match.

This type of wrestling, popularized in Southern California, usually furnishes more action than the other type for the simple reason there are twice as many men involved. A tag match rarely lasts, because when a wrestler starts to poop all he has to do is edge over to tag his partner's hand. Then the partner takes over.

Zaharias perhaps is best-acquainted of the four with team wrestling, because he and his brother, Babe, comprise a two-some that takes a back-seat to few. They rank with the Beckers. (Continued on Page Seven)

NEW MAYOR



BOB L. HAGGARD, local realtor who has served two years on the Torrance City Council, was elected Mayor of Torrance this week by a three to two vote of council members. Opposing votes were those of councilmen George Powell and Nickolas Drale.

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